Sl. No.	Name of the Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court	No. of cases pending
16.	Chennai - Started functioning w.e.f. 15-3-2000	—
17.	Bhubaneswar - Started functioning w.e.f 5-6-2000	—
	TOTAL:	8728

Reduction of EPF Interest Rate

586. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to reduce the interest rate on E.P.F. deposits from 12 percent to 11 percent per annum;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Central Board of Trustees in its meeting on 25th April, 2000, recommended that the 12 percent rate per annum on monthly balances be continued;

(c) whether Government are empowered to decide on the interest rate contrary to the recommendation of the CBT as per the provision of EPF and Misc. Provisions Act, 1952 and the para 60(1) of the EPF scheme; and

(d) if not, the response of Government to this flagrant violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) Under item 8 of Schedule II of the EPF & MP Act, 1952 read with paragraph 60(1) of the EPF Scheme, rate of interest on EPF is required to be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, EPF. Accordingly, the CBT in its meeting held on 25.4.2000 made a recommendation to the Central Government for crediting interest in accounts of the EPF

subscribers @ 12% for 2000-2001. The recommendations of the Central Board were considered and as average earning of the EPF from April 2000 onward is around 11% it has been decided to credit interest in accounts of the EPF subscribers @ 11% interest for the year 2000-01. In determining the rate of interest on EPF the Central Government has also been guided by the provisions of paragraph 60(4) of the EPF Scheme under which the Central Government is required to ensure that there is no overdrawal on the interest suspense account as a result of giving interest to the EPF subscribers. As such, there is no violation of the Act/Scheme in this regard.

Surplus Employees in Government Offices

†587. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the size of the administration;

(b) if so, whether Government have also ascertained the number of surplus employees before taking the above decision;

(c) if so, what is the total number of surplus employees; and

(d) what is the number of surplus employees, Ministry-wise and category-wise separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) has been issuing instructions from time to time to control creation of Plan and Non-Plan posts and thereby to reduce the expenditure on establishment. In August, 1999, instructions were issued by that Ministry to all the Ministries/

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.